



NEWS RELEASE



NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

United States Department of Agriculture - Washington Agricultural Statistics Service
Post Office Box 609 - Olympia, Washington 98507 - Phone: (360) 902-1940

Contact: Ray Garibay (360) 902-1940
nass-wa@nass.usda.gov

MILD WINTER WEATHER AND TIMELY RAINS PUSH WASHINGTON'S 2005 WINTER WHEAT PRODUCTION 7 PERCENT ABOVE 2004

OLYMPIA, Washington, May 12, 2005--Winter wheat production in Washington in 2005 is expected to total 125.8 million bushels, 7 percent above last year's crop and the highest production since 2000's 1.31 million bushels. Based on May 1 conditions, timely rains throughout March and April 2005 helped the crop, although growers are concerned about moisture supplies for the remainder of the growing season. Both harvested acres and yields are above last year. Growers are expected to harvest 1.85 million acres, 100,000 more acres than last year and yields are a reported 68.0 bushels per acre, 1.0 bushel above 2004. Only Kansas and Oklahoma are expected to have production in 2005 above Washington's. About 83 percent of the dryland wheat crop was rated good or excellent for the week ending May 1, 2005, compared with 52 percent in 2004.

"As of May 1, 2005, moisture supplies continue to be a major concern in Washington, with 69 percent of the subsoil moisture rated short or very short," said Ray Garibay, Director for the Washington Agricultural Statistics Service.

Idaho growers are expected to harvest 730,000 acres this year, 30,000 more than in 2004. With yields unchanged at 90.0 bushels per acre from last year, production in 2005 will reach 65.7 million bushels, 4.3 percent above last year. In Oregon, a 60,000 acre increase in harvested acres will partially offset a 6.0 bushel per acre drop in yields. Production is expected to total 46.2 million bushels, compared with 47.6 million bushels in 2004. The combined Pacific Northwest wheat crop is forecasted at 237.7 million bushels from 3.42 million harvested acres.

For the other major producing states, in Kansas, as of May 1, wheat jointing was ahead of normal; however, heading was behind the 5-year average. In Oklahoma, fall conditions were very wet, but spring precipitation levels have been below normal.

Winter wheat production in the United States is forecast at 1.59 billion bushels, up 6 percent from 2004. Also, based on May 1 conditions, the U.S. yield is forecast at 45.4 bushels per acre, 1.9 bushels more than last year. Grain area totals 35.1 million acres, up 2 percent from last season.

The next winter wheat forecast will be released on June 10, 2005. The first spring wheat forecast will be released on July 12, 2005.

MAY 1 HAY STOCKS DIP 31 PERCENT

The quantity of hay stored on Washington farms on May 1, 2005 totaled 322,000 tons compared with 470,000 tons in 2004 and 285,000 tons in 2003. Lack of winter precipitation and minimal spring pasture growth depleted the stocks.

Idaho reported 535,000 tons of hay stored on May 1, 2005, 20 percent more than 2004, but 16 percent less than two years ago. Oregon's hay stocks stood at 362,000 tons, compared with 371,000 tons in 2004 and 340,000 tons in 2003.

The combined Pacific Northwest stocks totaled 1.22 million tons compared with 1.29 million in 2004. Nationally, all hay stored on farms totaled 27.7 million tons, up 7 percent from the previous year.

Winter Wheat: Area Harvested, Yield, and Production, 2004 and Forecasted May 1, 2005

State	Planted	Harvested		Yield		Production	
	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005
		1,000 Acres		Bu/Acre		1,000 Bushels	
Washington	1,900	1,750	1,850	67.0	68.0	117,250	125,800
Idaho	770	700	730	90.0	90.0	63,000	65,700
Oregon	870	780	840	61.0	55.0	47,580	46,200
Pacific NW	3,540	3,230	3,420	70.5	69.5	227,830	237,700
Kansas	10,100	8,500	9,600	37.0	44.0	314,500	422,400
Oklahoma	5,900	4,700	4,300	35.0	34.0	164,500	146,200
Texas	5,800	3,500	3,500	31.0	30.0	108,500	105,000
Nebraska	1,800	1,650	1,700	37.0	45.0	61,050	76,500
Ohio	840	890	810	62.0	66.0	55,180	53,460
Colorado	2,650	1,700	2,450	27.0	35.0	45,900	85,750
Montana	2,150	1,630	2,050	41.0	41.0	66,830	84,050
10 States	32,780	25,800	27,830	40.5	43.5	1,044,290	1,211,060
U.S. Total	41,613	34,462	35,069	43.5	45.4	1,499,434	1,590,862

Wheat: Production by Class, United States, 2003-2005 1/ 2/

Year	Winter					Spring					
	Hard Red	Soft Red	Hard White 3/	Soft White 3/	All White	Hard Red	Hard White 3/	Soft White 3/	All White	Durum	Total
	1,000 Bushels										
2003	1,070,996	380,435			265,290	499,674			31,728	96,637	2,344,760
2004	856,211	380,305			262,918	525,467			43,451	89,893	2,158,245
2005	1,006,083	302,276	31,174	251,329	282,503						

1/ Wheat class estimates are based on the latest available data including both survey and administrative data. The previous end-of-season class percentages are used throughout the forecast season, except for States where updated information is available.

2/ Spring production by class and total production will be published in "Crop Production" released July 12, 2005.

3/ Individual Hard White and Soft White estimates are not available prior to 2005.

To access the entire release, including the complete narrative and tables point to:

<http://www.nass.usda.gov/wa/press/wwhtmay.pdf>

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Find agricultural statistics for Washington State at www.nass.usda.gov/wa/